

The occasion is stated to have been as follows :

The Corregidor of Madrid had given leave to a bookseller to print an edition of the French constitution, on condition of printing but a very small number of copies. Five or six thousand were, however, printed, which were instantly purchased and carried off.

Count Florida Blanca, the Minister, gave order to seize the printer, the Corregidor, the copies, and the buyers of the work.

This proceeding roused the indignant people; and it is also stated, that the minister paid very dear for his arbitrary rath- nels.

The letter concluded thus—  
“ *Things are going forward here which I dare not trust to paper !*”

---

#### DOMESTIC.

The minister, with an allowable exultation, announced to the parliament, the flourishing state of the nation, and the productiveness of the revenue which would enable him, he said, to take off some of the taxes that proved most oppressive to the people. This proposition was received with universal satisfaction by all parties; and if it can have the good effect, to make any one party be fully convinced of one momentous truth, that the universal prosperity of the people, is the

only true source of an abundant revenue, it will be a blessed effect indeed; for then we should see, not a few, but many taxes repealed, and the revenue by that means augmented.

Of another truth, it ought also to convince us, *viz.* That to lose a burthen, is to make a real acquisition of wealth. By the last war we had the good fortune to lose a great portion of America, and Minorca. These were two grievous loads which weighed us down, and not only consumed unprofitably great sums of the national treasure but, by retarding our internal prosperity, diminished all the sources of revenue, and of course loaded the nation with a number of ruinous and unproductive taxes. We begin to feel the effects of this alleviation of our expatriotic territorial possessions; pity, that so small an alleviation had been produced, and that such a struggle should have been maintained before we could attain it. When shall the time come, when the people of this island shall be convinced, that we should not only never make war for the acquisition of trans-maritime territory; nor fight with any nation to retain it; but that our interest would be greatly promoted by giving them all up voluntarily to the freedom of their own wills? The only answer this query that can now obtain, is, that this period is not